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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 31/10	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/14182
		(43) International Publication Date: 9 April 1998 (09.04.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/18114

(22) International Filing Date: 2 October 1997 (02.10.97)

(30) Priority Data:
60/027,750 3 October 1996 (03.10.96) US(71) Applicant: SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY [US/US];
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Louis, MO 63102 (US).(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR,
BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE,
GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK,
LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO,
NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH,
KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ,
BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE,
CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL,
PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**Published***With international search report.**Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of
amendments.*

(54) Title: THERAPEUTIC USE OF D-METHIONINE TO REDUCE THE TOXICITY OF PLATINUM-CONTAINING ANTI-TUMOR COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract

Methods of preventing or reducing hearing or balance loss, damage to ear cells, weight loss, gastrointestinal toxicity, neurotoxicity, alopecia, and prolonging survival in patients undergoing treatment with therapeutically effective amounts of platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agents such as cisplatin are provided. These methods comprise administering an effective amount of a methionine protective agent, such as D-methionine, prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

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Therapeutic Use of D-Methionine
To Reduce the Toxicity of
Platinum-Containing Anti-Tumor Compounds

5 This application claims the benefit of priority of
U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/027,750, filed
October 3, 1996.

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to the use of
protective agents in cancer chemotherapy in human and
animal subjects. Protective agents are compounds that
prevent, reduce, or otherwise ameliorate the toxic side
effects of anti-cancer chemotherapeutic compounds in
normal body cells while substantially preserving the
15 anti-tumor properties of these compounds *in vivo* when
administered prior to, concomitantly with, or
subsequently to administration of such chemotherapeutic
compounds. More specifically, the present invention
relates to the use of D-methionine and structurally
20 related compounds as protective agents having oto-
protective, weight loss-protective, gastrointestinal-
protective, neuro-protective, alopecia-protective, and
survival-enhancing effects in conjunction with
chemotherapy employing platinum-containing antineoplastic
25 agents, such as cisplatin.

Description of Related Art

Cisplatin Chemotherapy

30 Cisplatin (*cis*-diamminedichloroplatinum(II);
CDDP) is a widely used antineoplastic agent. Cisplatin
administration has increased both in the variety of
cancer types for which it is employed and in the amount

used in a given individual to achieve maximal therapeutic effect (Blumenreich et al., 1985; Forastiere et al., 1987; Gandara et al., 1989).

5 The toxic side effects of cisplatin have long been recognized and are widely reported (Lippman et al., 1973; also see the review by Hacker, 1991). These toxicities include a variety of peripheral neuropathies, myelo-suppression, gastrointestinal toxicity, nephrotoxicity, and ototoxicity (Ozols and Young, 1985; 10 Stewart et al., 1987; Stoter et al., 1989). Initially, the primary dose-limiting factor was nephrotoxicity, but now the routine administration of mannitol, hypertonic saline, and high fluid administration have ameliorated, but not eliminated, that side effect. However, 15 ototoxicity remains uncontrolled (Bajorin et al., 1987; Fillastre and Raguenez-Viotte, 1989). Although nephrotoxicity can still be dose-limiting, currently the primary dose-limiting factor is ototoxicity (Blumenreich et al., 1985; Forastiere et al., 1987; Berry et al., 20 1990).

The primary ototoxic effects of cisplatin appear to occur in the cochlea. Anatomical changes occur in both the stria vascularis and the organ of Corti. The primary histologic findings include hair cell 25 degeneration and damage to the supporting cells that are dose-related (Anniko and Sobin, 1986). At high doses, total collapse of the membranous labyrinth can occur (Anniko and Sobin, 1986). In the organ of Corti, there is loss of outer and inner hair cells, with a propensity 30 for outer hair cell loss in the basal turn (Fleischman et al., 1975; Komune, 1981; Estrem et al., 1981; Schweitzer, 1993), and alterations in the supporting cells and Reissner's membrane (Komune, 1981; Estrem et al., 1981). Estrem et al. (1981) also reported softening of the 35 cuticular plate and an increased number of lysosomal bodies in the apical portion of the outer hair cell.

However, the mechanisms inducing these changes are largely unknown.

For equivalent inner ear concentrations, cisplatin is the most ototoxic drug known (Moroso and Blair, 1983; Koegel, 1985; Anniko and Sobin, 1986; Griffin, 1988). Generally, cisplatin ototoxicity is irreversible, its onset insidious, and the hearing loss may progress after discontinuation of the protocol (Schaefer et al., 1985; Melamed et al., 1985; Pollera et al., 1988; Aguilar-Markulis et al., 1981; see the review by Moroso and Blair, 1983). Hearing loss is usually permanent (Vermorken et al., 1983). Partial recovery may occur in some cases, but only one of 121 patients with hearing loss had complete recovery in a study by Aguilar-Markulis et al., (1981). Hearing loss typically starts at the ultra high frequencies (9000 to 20000 Hz) (Fausti et al., 1984; Kopelman et al., 1988) and then progresses into the high conventional audiometric range (Laurell and Engström, 1989; Kopelman et al., 1988; Meyer, 1989), reducing the patient's ability to hear consonant but not vowel sounds. An inability to understand speech and tinnitus are frequent complaints (Kopelman et al., 1988). An increasing number of patients survive chemotherapy, but frequently with hearing impairment.

Nucleophilic Sulfur Protective Agents

Many sulfur-containing compounds (including substances with thio, thiol, and thioether groups) have been reported to provide CDDP nephroprotection in animal models (Anderson et al., 1990; Jones and Basinger, 1989; Jones et al., 1986; 1991a, b, c; 1992). These compounds may act by preventing the CDDP-induced depletion of glutathione or the binding of CDDP to protein sulfhydryl groups (Hanneman and Baumann, 1988; Nakano and Gemba, 1989; Gandara et al., 1989; Ravi et al., 1991; Schweitzer, 1993).

Additionally, sodium thiosulfate (STS) and diethyldithiocarbamate (DDTC) provide good CDDP otoprotection in animals (Otto et al., 1988; Church et al., 1995; Rybak et al., 1995). Unfortunately, STS may
5 reduce CDDP tumoricidal action (Pfeifle et al., 1985; Aamdal et al., 1987) and may exacerbate CDDP-induced weight loss and mortality (Otto et al., 1988). DDTC does not interfere with antitumor action (Qazi et al., 1988; Berry et al., 1989; Dedon et al., 1984; Borch et al.,
10 1988), but can produce severe side effects (Rothenberg et al., 1988; Qazi et al., 1988).

D-Methionine

D-methionine (D-Met) is a sulfur-containing nucleophile that provides highly effective CDDP
15 nephroprotection in animals without decreasing anti-tumor action (Jones and Basinger, 1989). Although only tested in that single study at a single dose level, D-Met was the most effective CDDP nephroprotectant that did not interfere with CDDP tumoricidal action out of nearly 40
20 sulfur-containing agents tested in a series of studies by Jones and colleagues (Jones and Basinger, 1989; Jones et al., 1986; 1991a, b, c; 1992). As far as the inventor is aware, D-Met has never been previously tested as a CDDP otoprotectant, and has not yet been tested clinically
25 (Treskes and van der Vijgh, 1993).

Sulfur-Containing Protective Agents and the Modulation of Cisplatin-Induced Toxicity

Studies indicate that individual sulfur-containing protective agents may only be effective in
30 reducing specific types of toxicity, such as nephrotoxicity, while remaining ineffective in blocking other platinum-related complications such as peripheral neuropathy and ototoxicity (Schweitzer, 1993). In addition, an agent which is effective as a regional

chemoprotector following site-specific (intraperitoneal) usage of platinum-containing compounds such as CDDP may fail to provide adequate systemic protection, or may inhibit antitumor activity (Schweitzer, 1993).

5 Not all sulfur-containing compounds provide protection against all of CDDP's toxicities, and it is not possible to predict which protective agents will be effective or ineffective for this purpose. For example, cefoxitin (Jones et al., 1992) does not provide
10 nephroprotection. Ethyl-L-cysteinate and N-(2-mercapto-propionyl)glycine (Jones and Basinger, 1989) exacerbate CDDP nephrotoxicity. 2-(methylthio)nicotinic acid does not provide nephroprotection in rats (Jones et al., 1991b). The sodium salt of penicillin G does not protect
15 against CDDP nephrotoxicity or weight loss (Jones et al., 1992). Similarly, thiamine-HCl does not protect against cisplatin nephrotoxicity or weight loss (Jones et al., 1992).

Furthermore, sulfur-containing compounds
20 protective against one type of CDDP toxicity frequently do not protect against other CDDP toxicities, and it is not possible to predict the specific antitoxic effectiveness of such compounds. Cephalexin (Jones et al., 1992) protects against CDDP-induced kidney
25 dysfunction and weight loss, but curiously does not prevent kidney pathology. Cefoxitin (Jones et al., 1992) provides some protection against CDDP-induced weight loss, but does not protect against CDDP nephrotoxicity. The sodium salt of penicillin G does not protect against
30 either CDDP-induced nephrotoxicity or weight loss (Jones et al., 1992). Sulfathiazole provides protection against CDDP nephro- toxicity, but not weight loss (Jones et al., 1992).

WR2721 provides excellent CDDP nephroprotection
35 (Mollman et al., 1988), but does not ameliorate nausea and vomiting (Glover et al., 1987). Nor does WR2721 seem

to provide CDDP otoprotection: Glover et al. (1987) found mild to severe hearing loss in 20 of 36 patients receiving WR2721 prior to CDDP although nephroprotection was obtained. Rubin et al. (1995) reported a 45% incidence of significant hearing threshold shift in patients pretreated with WR2721 prior to CDDP administration. Unfortunately, neither the Glover et al. (1987) nor Rubin et al. (1995) studies employed a control group, and both reported a high incidence of ototoxicity in patients receiving WR2721. In hamsters, Church et al. (1995) reported no WR2721 protection from ototoxicity or mortality.

Even when a sulfur-containing agent is found to be protective, its side effects can be so severe that clinical applicability is precluded. In addition, even among agents that provide CDDP otoprotection, the protection may be so inconsistent and/or the side effects so great that they would not be used clinically. For example, DDTC provides protection against CDDP-induced nephrotoxicity (Qazi et al., 1988; Berry et al., 1989; Gandara et al., 1989a, 1989b, and 1991) and ototoxicity (Church et al., 1995), but the protection against ototoxicity may only be partial (Gandara et al., 1989a; Ravi et al., 1992) and its side effects are severe (Rothenberg et al., 1988; Berry et al., 1990). If DDTC dosing is reduced to ameliorate its side effects, adequate protection from CDDP side effects may not occur (Paredes et al., 1988). Similarly, disulfiram (Antabuse), which can be used as a precursor for its metabolite DDTC, can cause sensorimotor neuropathy (Argov and Mastiglia, 1979) and reversible confusion that can be dose-limiting (Stewart et al., 1987). Consequently, it is unlikely that DDTC will be widely used clinically as a CDDP chemoprotectant. In contrast, as described below, D-Met provides complete otoprotection without apparent adverse side effects.

Finally, many sulfur-containing compounds inhibit the anti-tumor action of CDDP, and it is not possible to predict which agents will or will not act in this manner. Thus, many agents that provide CDDP protection are not clinically useful. For example, Captropril (Jones et al., 1992) protects against CDDP nephrotoxicity, but reacts immediately with CDDP to form a precipitate if coadministered, thereby precluding anti-tumor efficacy. L-methioninamide (Jones et al., 1991b) provides excellent CDDP nephroprotection, but impairs CDDP anti-tumor action. Metallothionein, a sulfur-containing compound the synthesis of which is induced by administration of bismuth subnitrate, provides CDDP nephroprotection, but also inhibits CDDP anti-tumor action (Naganuma et al., 1987; Boogaard et al., 1991; Satoh et al., 1993; Imura et al., 1992; Endresen et al., 1994). STS reduces CDDP nephrotoxicity (Pfeifle et al., 1985; Howell et al. 1982) and ototoxicity (Otto et al., 1988; Church et al., 1995), although some authors report inadequate otoprotection (Markman et al., 1985). However, STS will probably not be clinically useful as coadministration with CDDP reduces the latter's tumoricidal action (Pfeile et al., 1985; Aamdal et al., 1987; Jones et al., 1991b), and two route administration does not provide nephroprotection (Jones et al., 1991b). Even in the absence of other agents, STS may also increase mortality and induce weight loss (Otto et al., 1988). Biotin, another sulfur-containing compound that provides good CDDP nephroprotection, inhibits anti-tumor activity (Jones et al., 1992).

Thus, a variety of sulfur-containing compounds can act as protective agents for particular toxicities. A comparison of C-SH- and C-S-C-containing compounds demonstrated that the C-S-C- group was more effective in preventing nephrotoxicity in rats (Jones et al., 1989).

However, not all of the compounds possessing the C-S-C-group were found to be effective cisplatin antagonists.

The foregoing discussion demonstrates that it is not possible to predict reliably which particular sulfur-containing nucleophile will exhibit a platinum-containing compound protective effect in any particular type of cell, tissue, or organ. Indeed, individual compounds seem to exert their protective effects only in certain tissues. Thus, the ability of any particular nucleophilic sulfur compound to act as a protective agent in any particular tissue can only be determined by direct experimentation. Of course, such compound will only be of value if it does not substantially reduce the anti-tumor efficacy of cisplatin or related anti-tumor platinum-containing compounds.

Deegan et al. (1994) demonstrated that male Wistar rats receiving a single intraperitoneal dose of cisplatin-methionine at a 1:5 ratio by weight did not exhibit cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity. Their results indicated that cisplatin-methionine is significantly cytotoxic, yet lacks cisplatin-associated renal toxicity. These workers suggested a role for either methionine co-treatment or cisplatin-methionine compounds in the treatment of human cancers. However, they neither disclosed nor suggested the specific otoprotective, weight loss-protective, gastrointestinal-protective, neuroprotective, alopecia-protective, or survival-enhancing effects of D-methionine surprisingly discovered by the present inventor. Nor did they provide any motivation to investigate D-methionine as an otoprotectant, weight loss-protectant, survival-enhancing agent, etc., or any reasonable expectation that methionine could act in these manners during cisplatin administration. Finally, Deegan et al. provided no guidance or suggestion as to how methionine could be used as a protective agent for various toxicities in humans,

as described herein. As noted by Schweitzer (1993; page 12), while various nucleophilic sulfur protective agents have been shown to be effective in blocking or reversing the renal toxicity of CDDP while retaining the
5 chemotherapeutic activity of the drug, each agent has to be considered individually. The effects on antineoplastic activity, individual CDDP toxicities, and appropriate dosing schedules need to be determined on a per se basis for each compound.

10 In view of the foregoing, the utility of D-Met as a highly effective platinum-containing anti-neoplastic agent otoprotectant, weight loss protectant, gastrointestinal protectant, neuroprotectant, alopecia
15 protectant, and survival-enhancing agent which does not interfere with anti-tumor activity, and which does not appear to cause any serious side effects, could not have been predicted. In fact, the discovery of D-Met's
20 beneficial effects is surprising in view of the many significant problems, discussed above, encountered with previously described sulfur-containing nucleophiles that preclude their clinical use.

Summary of the Invention

The present inventor has addressed the long-felt need in the art for protective agents effective in
25 preventing or ameliorating various toxic effects of cisplatin and other platinum-containing anti-tumor compounds, but which do not significantly affect the antineoplastic activity of these compounds, and which do not themselves cause deleterious side effects as a result
30 of their administration. She has surprisingly discovered that D-methionine, and structurally related compounds, can be used as an otoprotectant, a weight loss protectant, a gastrointestinal protectant, a neuroprotectant, an alopecia protectant, and a survival-

enhancing agent during treatment of a mammal with such a platinum-containing anti-tumor compound.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the present invention provides a method for preventing or reducing
5 ototoxicity in a human or animal patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said patient an anti-ototoxic effective amount of a methionine protective agent. Such protective
10 agent can be administered prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

In another aspect, the present invention
15 provides a method for preventing or reducing weight loss in a human or animal patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said patient an anti-weight loss effective amount of a
20 methionine protective agent. Such protective agent can be administered prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

25 In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for preventing or reducing gastrointestinal toxicity in a human or animal patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent,
30 comprising administering to said patient an anti-gastrointestinal toxicity effective amount of a methionine protective agent. Such protective agent can be administered prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of said platinum-
35 containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method for preventing or reducing neurotoxicity in a human or animal patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said patient an anti-neurotoxicity effective amount of a methionine protective agent. Such protective agent can be administered prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

In still another aspect, the present invention provides a method for preventing or reducing alopecia in a human or animal patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said patient an anti-alopecia effective amount of a methionine protective agent. Such protective agent can be administered prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method for prolonging the survival of a human or animal patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said patient a survival-prolonging effective amount of a methionine protective agent. Such protective agent can be administered prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequently to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

Further scope of the applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description and drawings provided below. However, it

should be understood that the following detailed description and examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be better understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, all of which are given by way of illustration only, and are not limitative of the present invention, in which:

Figure 1 shows ABR post-test thresholds (means \pm 1 S.D.) for the various animal groups for all stimuli including: a) clicks; b) 1000 Hz tonebursts; c) 4000 Hz tonebursts; d) 8000 Hz tonebursts; and e) 14000 Hz tonebursts. * indicates significantly different from the CDDP-treated controls at the $p \leq .01$ level.

Figures 2A-2F are SEM photomicrographs of: A) middle turn of untreated control; B) middle turn of treated control (16 mg/kg CDDP); C) middle turn of animal administered 300 mg/kg D-Met prior to the 16 mg/kg CDDP dose; D) basal turn of untreated control; E) basal turn of treated control (16 mg/kg CDDP); and F) basal turn of animal administered 300 mg/kg D-Met prior to the 16 mg/kg CDDP dose.

Figure 3 shows the average weight loss in grams for the various animal groups. * indicates significantly different from the CDDP-treated controls at the $p \leq .01$ level.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The following detailed description is provided to aid those skilled in the art in practicing the present invention. Even so, this detailed description should not
5 be construed to unduly limit the present invention as modifications and variations in the the embodiments discussed herein can be made by those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit or scope of the present inventive discovery.

10 The contents of each of the references cited herein are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Example 1

Otoprotective Effect of D-Met

15 This experiment demonstrates the effectiveness of D-Met in preventing a variety of different toxic side effects associated with the use of platinum-containing anti-tumor compounds, exemplified by CDDP (cisplatin), in a mammal.

20 Materials and Methods

Animals

As is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, the rat is a well-accepted experimental animal useful as a model for studies of CDDP toxicity in humans.

25 Complete data sets were obtained for five groups of five male Wistar rats (280-421g). All animals were anesthetized with 1 ml/mg IM of Rompun cocktail (a solution containing 86.21 mg/ml ketamine and 2.76 mg/ml xylazine) prior to all injections and testing.

30 Anesthesia was supplemented as needed with half doses throughout testing. The five groups included: a treated control group which received 16 mg/kg CDDP dissolved in

normal sterile saline (1 mg of CDDP/ml normal saline; solution pH 6.3) administered by i.p. infusion with a Harvard Apparatus Infusion Pump, over a 30 minute period, an untreated control group that received an equivalent volume of normal saline (pH 6.5) instead of CDDP, and three experimental groups that received either 75, 150, or 300 mg/kg D-Met dissolved in 3-5 ml of normal saline (solution pH 6.6) delivered by slow (over 1-2 minutes) i.p. injection 30 minutes prior to the same CDDP infusion as the treated control group. Both CDDP (purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis) and D-Met (purchased from Acros Organics, Pittsburgh, PA) were freshly prepared before each experiment. For the treated control group, a total of 10 animals were needed to obtain 5 animals with complete data sets because 50% of the animals did not survive to the end of the study period. Only 5 animals were needed in the untreated control and in each of the D-Met pretreated groups because all of the animals in each of those groups survived until the end of the study period.

All of the care and use of the animals was approved by the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee, and was under the supervision of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Evoked Potentials

Auditory Brainstem Testing (ABR) was used to assess auditory threshold. Testing occurred just prior to administration of the CDDP or saline (with or without a protective agent) and again 3 days later. All testing was performed with the animal in a double walled IAC booth.

Platinum/iridium needle electrodes were placed at the vertex (non-inverting) to a point directly below

the ipsilateral pinna (inverting) with a ground electrode placed in the hind leg.

ABR data collection was obtained with a Biologic Traveler system with an additional custom made high frequency stimulator for 14000 Hz. ABR thresholds were measured in response to 100 microsecond clicks and for tonebursts with 1 ms rise/fall and 0 ms plateau gated by a Blackman envelope and centered at the frequencies of 1, 4, 8, and 14 kHz presented at 10/s. An intensity series was obtained for each animal from 100 to 0 dB peak equivalent SPL (peSPL) for click stimuli and Sound Pressure Level (SPL) for tonebursts in 10 dB decrements. The term peSPL means that the amplitude of the click stimulus from the prestimulus baseline to the first peak is equivalent to the SPL of a pure tone stimulus having the same prestimulus baseline to peak amplitude. Threshold was defined as the lowest intensity capable of eliciting a replicable, visually detectable response.

A total of 512 sweeps constituted each average. The recording epoch was 15 ms following stimulus onset. Responses were analogue filtered with a 30-3000 Hz bandpass.

Rectal temperature was monitored throughout recordings, with animal temperature being maintained by a warming pad.

Electron microscopy

The animals were sacrificed by decapitation while under general anesthesia and cochleae perfused with fixative through the perilymphatic spaces. The primary fixative was 2.5% glutaraldehyde at 4°C in 0.1M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). A small hole in the otic capsule was hand drilled beneath the first turn with a three sided, sharpened pick. In vitro perfusion was performed intermittently within 5 minutes of sacrifice through the small hole in scala tympani, allowing the fluid to exit

through the opened oval window. After perfusion fixation, the round window membrane was removed, and the cochleae were immersed in glutaraldehyde and stored in the refrigerator overnight.

5 After overnight fixation in glutaraldehyde, the cochleae were rinsed in 0.1 M phosphate buffer and gently perfused with the buffer through the perilymphatic spaces by loosely fitting the tube end of the perfusion syringe over the opening drilled in the scala tympani. Cochleae
10 were then rinsed in buffer 3 times. After rinsing, the cochleae were post-fixed by a perfusion of 1.5% OsO₄ (at 4°C) in phosphate buffer in a fume hood. Fixation was continued by immersion and rotation in the same fixative for 15 minutes. The cochleae were rinsed in the same
15 fashion as after glutaraldehyde fixation.

Under the dissecting microscope, the bony capsule of the cochlea was carefully removed.

The tissue was then serially dehydrated in 2 X 50%, 70%, 85%, 95% and 3 X 100% ethanol. Each specimen
20 was dried using Peldri and placed on a stub for sputter coating with 13 nm platinum. The tissue was viewed through a Hitachi S-500 scanning electron microscope and photographs taken on Polaroid type 55 land Film.

Semi-quantitative analysis per turn for the
25 outer hair cells was performed in the following manner: For each turn of the cochlea, apical, middle, and base, a representative sample was examined. For each sample, 11 inner hair cells served as a guide to count a section of 33 outer hair cells or 11 per row. The number of damaged
30 or missing outer hair cells within each sample was then counted.

Weight

Each animal's weight was measured in an Ohaus triple beam balance scale before administration of the

anesthetic for the pretest and again before the post-test 3 days later.

Statistical Analysis

ABR data were analyzed using a three factor
5 analysis of variance (ANOVA) with one between subject
factor (groups) and two within subject factors (frequency
and pre- vs. post-test). Each dependent variable was
analyzed independently. Tests subsequent to the ANOVA
were carried out in accordance with the Tukey HSD
10 procedure. Weight loss and/or gastrointestinal
protection was measured using the same type of
statistical analysis as the ABR measures. SEM data were
analyzed for each turn using a one way analysis of
variance with Post-Hoc Tukey HSD analysis. The criterion
15 for statistical significance for all measures was $p \leq 0.01$.

Results

Hearing loss

Post test ABR hearing thresholds are presented
in Figure 1. As expected, no significant threshold shift
20 in response to any stimulus occurred in the untreated
control group, and marked significant threshold shift
occurred in response to all stimuli, but particularly for
the high frequencies, in the treated control group. For
the animals receiving D-Met prior to the CDDP, 2/5 and
25 3/5 animals receiving 75 and 150 mg/kg D-Met,
respectively, had complete otoprotection as defined by no
significant ABR threshold shift for any stimulus. For
the 300 mg/kg D-Met administration, all 5 animals had
complete otoprotection for all stimulus conditions (Fig.
30 1). All experimental groups receiving any level of D-Met
had significantly lower ABR thresholds than the treated
control group for all stimuli, as did the untreated
control group. This observed protection from hearing
loss may occur not only as a result of protection of

cochlear mechanisms, but also as a result of protection of the auditory neural pathway (i.e., neuroprotection).

Histology

Histologic findings (Fig. 2) were consistent with the ABR findings. All groups had essentially normal hair cell counts for the apical turn, with no significant difference between groups. For the middle and basal turns, only the treated control group showed significantly different findings from the untreated control group and from the three groups receiving preadministration of D-Met, with the basal turn being consistently more affected than the middle turn.

Weight loss

CDDP-induced weight loss diminished as D-Met dosing increased (Fig. 3). Weight loss in the experimental group receiving 300 mg/kg was significantly less than that in the treated control group. The amount of weight loss across groups was significantly correlated with the amount of threshold shift for all stimuli, with the highest correlation for the 14 kHz stimulus.

Neuroprotection

Animals receiving D-Met were noticeably more lively, active, and coordinated on the morning of the third day as compared to the surviving treated control group animals.

Alopecia

The coats of animals receiving D-Met were noticeably superior to those of control group animals, and showed significantly less hair loss.

Survival during the study period

All 15/15 animals receiving any level of D-Met survived to the end of the study period as compared to 5/10 treated control group animals.

5

Discussion

The foregoing results demonstrate that 300 mg/kg D-Met administered 30 minutes before 16 mg/kg CDDP provides complete otoprotection, as indicated by ABR and histologic findings, while also reducing CDDP-induced weight loss, gastrointestinal toxicity, neurotoxicity, alopecia, and improving survival.

While not intending to be bound to any particular theory, I hypothesize that D-Met may provide these protective effects by any one or more of a number of different mechanisms.

According to Schweitzer, (1993), sulfur-containing compounds may prevent CDDP from interacting with intracellular target molecules, the nucleophilic oxygen or sulfur atoms interacting with the electrophilic site of the CDDP, thus displacing or extracting platinum after it is bound. Theoretically, these agents provide protection because of their high affinity for platinum complexes. It is known that CDDP reacts with methionine's sulfhydryl group (Lempers and Reedijk, 1990).

CDDP may preferentially bind to free D-Met, thus protecting glutathione. Reduced glutathione is an essential part of the anti-oxidant pathways. CDDP does reduce renal glutathione levels, resulting in increased lipid peroxidation (Hanneman and Baumann, 1988; Sugihara et al., 1987a, b; Boogaard, 1991). CDDP also reduces glutathione levels in the cochlea and inferior colliculus (Ravi et al., 1991). More recent work (Ravi et al., 1995, Rybak et al., 1995) investigated changes specifically in the cochlear antioxidant system.

Systemic CDDP administration decreased reduced glutathione (GSH) levels, and reduced activity of the enzymes glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px) and glutathione reductase (GR). Oxidized glutathione or glutathione disulfide (GSSG) was not found, suggesting that the overall glutathione levels decreased rather than merely being oxidized. Ravi et al., (1995) also reported increased cochlear malondialdehyde (MDA) levels, reflecting increased lipid peroxidation. Because CDDP does increase the level of free radicals in general (Hanneman and Baumann, 1988), preservation of the anti-oxidant system may be critical in preventing CDDP side effects.

D-Met preadministration may protect the sulfur groups of proteins, including protein bound L-methionine. CDDP binds to the methionine groups in protein and to glutathione (Lempers and Reedijk, 1990). Schweitzer, (1993) suggests that platinum binding to protein sulfhydryl groups may cause CDDP nephrotoxicity, accounting for the nephroprotective action of thiols (Gandara et al., 1989). It is logical that free D-Met may preferentially bind to CDDP because of the steric hindrance of the protein bound sulfur groups. This protection could occur by preferential binding of the CDDP to D-Met, or perhaps D-Met could reverse the Pt binding to the protein-bound methionine and glutathione, as do other sulfur-containing compounds (Lempers and Reedijk, 1990). Methionine can displace plasma-bound Pt (Alden and Repta, 1984).

D-Met binding to CDDP may also protect free L-methionine (L-Met), an essential amino acid. Parenteral administration of DL-methionine in humans results in higher plasma levels of the D- isomer (Printen et al., 1979). Because the D-Met is less well metabolized than L-Met in humans, it may remain more available for CDDP binding, thus protecting the

L-Met for needed protein synthesis, cell activation, and metabolism.

Fortunately, D-Met does not inhibit CDDP anti-tumor action as determined against the Walker 256
5 carcinosarcoma in the rat (Jones and Basinger, 1989). Preadministration of methionine, presumably a racemic mixture, actually sensitized NHIK 3025 *in vitro* human uterine cervix carcinoma *in situ* cancer cells to CDDP cytotoxicity (Melvik and Petterson, 1987).

10 Several factors may account for D-Met's CDDP-protective action in nontumor cells as compared to tumor cells. Methionine metabolism is clearly different in tumor and nontumor cells (Hoffman, 1985), but how these
15 differences may result in differential CDDP action has not been elucidated. The toxic effects of CDDP may also be different in tumor and nontumor cells. The CDDP anti-tumor effect results primarily from cisplatin's reaction with DNA, primarily at the N-7 bisguanine position. Initially, mono-adducts are formed, followed by rapid
20 intra-strand cross-linking, causing cytotoxicity (see the review by Tognella, 1990). The binding of platinum to cytosolic ligands and nucleoprotein fractions may also play a role, but the receptors and interactions are not yet defined (Schweitzer, 1993). Significant DNA binding
25 in normal cells is less likely because fewer DNA replication forks are open at any point in time, unlike in rapidly dividing tumor cells. In nontumor cells, the toxic effects may be largely secondary to the binding with amino acids, either free or protein-bound, and
30 deactivation of the antioxidant pathway, as described above.

The timing of CDDP reactions may also be different in tumor and nontumor cells. CDDP uptake by the Walker 256 carcinosarcoma in the rat is very rapid,
35 occurring in the first few minutes after administration, followed by a rapid redistribution that is complete

within 15 minutes after injection (Jones and Basinger, 1989). Because the uptake of CDDP into tumor cells is very rapid, the binding to the DNA bisguanine groups, particularly at the open replication forks, may occur
5 more rapidly than the reaction of CDDP with methionine.

Although CDDP uptake into the kidney is also rapid (Jones and Basinger, 1989), CDDP binding to protein is relatively slow. As reviewed by Schweitzer, (1993), following IV cisplatin administration, 90% of cisplatin
10 is protein-bound within 2 hours, with half-lives of 25 to 50 minutes and 53 to 73 hours for unbound and bound platinum, respectively. Platinum tissue levels decline slowly. Platinum may still be measured over a week after high dosage administration, and bound fragments may still
15 be present when the patient starts the next treatment cycle. Platinum uptake in the stria vascularis and the organ of Corti increases at least over a 24 hour period, which may underlie the dose-related cumulative ototoxicity (Schweitzer, 1993), but may also allow time
20 for CDDP binding to D-Met before uptake into the cochlea.

However, the CDDP toxicities both in tumor and nontumor cells are complex, and many factors may be involved in D-Met's protective action.

A positive correlation between weight loss and
25 outer hair cell loss in guinea pigs has been demonstrated (Tange et al., 1982, Hoeve et al., 1988), but both studies noted marked intersubject variability. The data presented above reveal a positive correlation between weight loss and threshold loss that increased as stimulus
30 frequency increased. The significant reduction in weight loss with 300 mg/kg D-Met preadministration suggests that D-Met also alleviates some of the gastrointestinal toxicities of CDDP. The amelioration in weight loss by D-Met could also be related to a decrease in
35 nephrotoxicity or other factors.

The elimination of CDDP mortality in this study by preadministration of any of the three D-Met levels demonstrates a marked improvement in the overall health status of the animals. D-Met preadministration may therefore be useful in shifting the LD₅₀ level of CDDP and other platinum-containing anti-tumor agents, permitting the safe use of higher levels of these agents during chemotherapy, with potential improvement of the cancer cure rate.

Therapeutic Applications

The data presented above demonstrate that D-Met prevents CDDP-induced ototoxicity, reduces CDDP-induced weight loss, protects against CDDP-induced gastrointestinal toxicity, neurotoxicity, and alopecia, and improves survival during CDDP treatment in a mammal. Because CDDP-induced hearing loss in humans is almost invariably permanent, prevention of this hearing loss has a number of important consequences. If ototoxicity could be prevented, not only could hearing be spared, but perhaps higher doses of cisplatin and other platinum-containing antineoplastic agents could be routinely employed during chemotherapy, increasing the effectiveness of anti-tumor therapy in human patients.

As used herein, the term "ototoxicity" includes, but is not limited to, any detrimental or pathologic change in the structure or function of the ear, including changes in hearing and balance. Auditory functional changes can include, but are not limited to, hearing loss or other changes in auditory threshold for any stimulus, perception of sound including recruitment (abnormal growth in the perception of loudness), ability to identify, localize, recognize, distinguish between, or process sounds, and/or distortion of sounds or any abnormality as measured by conventional auditory tests. This term also includes tinnitus (ringing or noises in

the ear), which includes any perception of sound that is not in response to an external signal. Further, ototoxicity includes any perceived or measured functional change in the balance or vestibular system, including, but not limited to, either induced or spontaneous vertigo, dysequilibrium, increased susceptibility to motion sickness, nausea, vomiting, nystagmus, syncope, lightheadedness, dizziness, difficulty in visual tracking secondary to vestibular or balance disorder or abnormality as measured on any test of vestibular or balance function. Structural changes can include any intra- or extra-cellular, multicellular, or organ change in the auditory or vestibular pathways from the external ear up through and including the cortex and all pathways in between.

The term "otoprotective agent" refers to an agent that prevents, ameliorates, or otherwise protects against ototoxicity.

The term "neurotoxicity" includes, but is not limited to, any detrimental or pathologic change in the structure or function in the neurologic system or any part thereof. Neurologic functional changes can include, but are not limited to, neuropathy, either central or distal, including a common "stocking and glove" pattern, tingling, loss of sensation, numbness, decreased vibratory sensation, decreased deep tendon reflexes, sensory ataxia, neuritis, focal encephalopathy, aphasia, autonomic neuropathy, postural hypotension, a myasthenia-like syndrome, muscle cramps, headache, seizures, blindness or visual disturbance secondary to disorder of the optic or visual neurological pathway, papilledema, hearing loss secondary to disorder of the auditory neurologic pathway, and/or loss of the sensation of taste. Structural changes can include intra- or extra-cellular, multicellular, or organ changes, anywhere in the neurologic system, including both peripheral and

central systems. Neurotoxicity can manifest itself during or after the course of treatment with platinum-containing anti-tumor compounds.

5 The term "neuroprotective agent" refers to an agent that prevents, ameliorates, or otherwise protects against neurotoxicity.

10 The term "gastrointestinal toxicity" includes, but is not limited to, any detrimental or pathologic change in the structure or function in the gastrointestinal system or any part thereof. Gastrointestinal changes include, for example, current or delayed nausea, vomiting, esophageal reflux, stomatitis, bleeding along the gastrointestinal tract, diarrhea, weight loss, and/or anorexia. Gastrointestinal toxicity
15 can manifest itself during or after the course of treatment with platinum-containing anti-tumor compounds.

The term "gastrointestinal-protective agent" refers to an agent that prevents, ameliorates, or otherwise protects against gastrointestinal toxicity.

20 In view of the results presented above, the medical or veterinary practitioner, by employing the compounds and methods described below, will be able to maintain any of the foregoing parameters in a mammal, especially a human, at a level of from about 70% to about
25 80% of the pre-chemotherapy treatment level, more preferably from about 80% to about 90% of the pre-chemotherapy treatment level, most preferably from about 90% to about 100% of the pre-chemotherapy treatment level, as measured by standard tests routinely employed
30 in the art. These compounds and methods can also be used for the treatment of domestic pets, such as cats and dogs.

35 The teachings presented herein permit the design of therapeutic regimens that can be employed to reduce the undesirable side effects of platinum-containing anti-tumor compounds such as CDDP, increase

the dosing of such anti-tumor compounds to obtain a higher cancer cure rate, and perhaps include weaker patients in treatment protocols employing such anti-tumor compounds, from which they are currently excluded because they cannot withstand the toxicities associated therewith. Administration of D-Met before, during, or after administration of antineoplastic effective amounts of platinum-containing anti-tumor compounds such as CDDP, or during various combinations of these time periods, is particularly useful in view of D-Met's lack of interference with CDDP anti-tumor action (Jones and Basinger, 1989; Melvik and Petterson, 1987).

D-Met and structurally related compounds can be used in conjunction with platinum-containing antitumor compounds such as CDDP during chemotherapy as described below.

Methionine and Its Derivatives

D-Met has been administered to humans for various purposes. For example, C-labeled D-Met has been used for radiographic imaging (Meyer et al., 1985), and DL-methionine has been administered for parenteral nutrition (Printen et al., 1979). D-Met has also been safely administered to humans orally for nutritional studies (Kaji et al., 1987; Kies et al., 1975; Stegink et al., 1986). Oral methionine is sold as an over the counter preparation to control urinary pH (Drug Facts and Comparisons, 1991). The contraindications are for patients with a history of liver disease, and that high dosage methionine may inhibit growth in children when given for an extended time period.

Analogous or derivatives of methionine useful in the present invention are compounds containing a methionine moiety, or a methionine-like moiety including a thioether group, that exhibit an otoprotectant effect, a weight-loss protectant effect, a gastrointestinal

protectant effect, a neuroprotectant effect, an alopecia protectant effect, and/or a survival-enhancing effect when used in conjunction with an antitumor platinum coordination compound administered in an effective
 5 chemotherapeutic dose. Among the compounds structurally related to D-Met that can be employed in the present invention are those containing the C-S-C- (thioether) moiety. These include, but are not limited to, compounds having the structural formula:



wherein m is an integer from 0 to 3; n is an integer from
 15 1 to 3; X = -OR¹, -OCOR¹, -COOR¹, -CHO, -CH(OR¹)₂, or -CH₂OH; Y = -NR²R³ or -OH; R¹ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight, branched chain, or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R² = H or a substituted or unsubstituted,
 20 straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and R³ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 4 carbon atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
 25

The lower alkyl and acyl groups described herein, either alone or containing the various substituents defined herein, can contain from one to six carbon atoms in the principal chain, and up to about 15
 30 carbon atoms total. The lower alkyl groups include, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and the like. Substituents of the substituted alkyl and acyl groups described herein can include, for example, groups
 35 selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl,

heteroaryl, O, S, N, P, or halogen (Cl, F, Br, or I) atoms. Optionally, these substituent alkyl, cycloalkyl, etc., groups can be substituted with O, S, N, P, or halogen (Cl, F, Br, or I) atoms. These substituent
5 alkyl, cycloalkyl, etc., groups include, for example, lower alkoxy groups such as methoxy, ethoxy, and butoxy, and groups such as halo, nitro, amino, and keto.

The alkenyl groups described herein, either alone or with the various substituents defined herein,
10 are preferably lower alkenyl containing from two to six carbon atoms in the principal chain, and up to about 15 carbon atoms total. They can be substituted, straight, or branched chain, and include ethenyl, propenyl, isopropenyl, butenyl, isobutenyl, hexenyl, and the like.

15 The alkynyl groups described herein, either alone or with the various substituents defined herein, are preferably lower alkynyl containing from two to six carbon atoms in the principal chain, and up to about 15 carbon atoms total. They can be substituted, straight or
20 branched chain, and include ethynyl, propynyl, butynyl, isobutynyl, hexynyl, and the like.

The aryl moieties described herein, either alone or with various substituents defined herein, can contain from about 6 to about 15 carbon atoms, and
25 include phenyl. Substituents include alkanoxy, protected hydroxy, halogen, alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, acyl, acyloxy, nitro, amino, amido, etc. Phenyl is a preferred aryl.

The heteroaryl moieties described herein, either alone or with various substituents defined herein,
30 can contain from about 5 to about 15 atoms, and include, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl and the like. Substituents include alkanoxy, protected hydroxy, halogen, alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, acyl, acyloxy, nitro, amino, and amido.

The acyloxy groups described herein can contain
35 alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, or heteroaryl groups.

The carbon atoms, i.e., the methyl and methylene groups, constituting the principal backbone of the methionine or methionine-like moiety can also be substituted as variously described above.

5 Non-limiting examples of such methionine protective agents include D-methionine (D-Met), L-methionine, a mixture of D-methionine and L-methionine, normethionine, homomethionine, methioninol, hydroxy methionine, ethionine, or pharmaceutically acceptable
10 salts thereof. Methionine protective agents of the present invention can be in the D-, L-, or DL- form, and include pharmaceutically acceptable N-(mono- and dicarboxylic acid) acyl derivatives and alkyl esters thereof. Exemplary acyl derivatives include the formyl,
15 acetyl, propionyl, and succinyl derivatives. Exemplary ester derivatives include the methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, and butyl esters. D-Met is a preferred compound.

20 Collectively, methionine, along with the other compounds discussed above, can be referred to as "methionine protective agents." These compounds can be used alone or in various combinations with one another in the methods described herein.

25 These compounds can be administered in the form of the water-soluble acid, free base, or as physiologically acceptable salts, including acid addition salts formed with organic and inorganic acids, for example, hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulfates, phosphates, citrates, fumarates, and maleates, and
30 cations such as sodium, potassium, etc. These compounds can be formulated for administration to humans and animals with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, and diluents, such as sterile distilled water, Ringer's solution, normal saline, 5% glucose,
35 dextrose, fructose, sucrose, etc., and mixtures thereof, as is well known in the art. Antimicrobial agents,

preservatives, etc., can also be included. Compositions for oral administration can include coloring and flavoring agents. Additional methods of formulating compounds of the present invention for administration in the methods described herein can be found, for example, in Remington's *Pharmaceutical Sciences*, Fifteenth Edition, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania, 1975.

Anti-tumor Platinum Compounds

Cisplatin (CDDP; *cis*-diamminedichloro-platinum(II)) is currently the anti-tumor platinum coordination compound most frequently employed in the therapy of testicular cancer, ovarian tumors, and a variety of other cancers. Methods of employing CDDP clinically are well known in the art (Nicolini, 1987). For example, CDDP can be administered in a single day over a six hour period, once per month, by slow intravenous infusion. For localized lesions, CDDP can be administered by local injection. Intraperitoneal infusion can also be employed. CDDP can be administered in doses as low as 10 mg/m² per treatment if part of a multi-drug regimen, or if the patient has an adverse reaction to higher dosing. At the low end, a more common clinical dose is about 30 mg/m²; the high end of the range is about 120 to about 150 mg/m² per treatment. When used in conjunction with D-Met or other methionine protective agents, these dosages can be increased.

CDDP is representative of a broad class of water-soluble, platinum coordination compounds well known in the art that provide platinum in the form of an ion having anti-tumor activity. Among the anti-tumor platinum coordination compounds described in the literature which are useful in the methods of the present invention are, for example, *trans*-diaminedichloro-platinum(II), *cis*-diamine-diaquaplatinum(II)-ion, *cis*-

diamedichloroplatinum(II)-ion,
chloro(diethylenetriamine)-platinum(II) chloride,
dichloro(ethylenediamine)-platinum(II), diammine(1,1-
cyclobutanedicarboxylato)-platinum(II) (carboplatin),
5 spiroplatin, dichlorotrans-dihydroxybisisopropolamine
platinum IV (iproplatin), diammine(2-ethylmalonato)-
platinum(II), ethylenediamine-malonatoplatinum(II),
aqua(1,2-diaminodiclohexane)-sulfatoplatinum(II), (1,2-
diaminocyclohexane)malonato-platinum(II), (4-
10 carboxypthalato)(1,2-diaminocyclo-hexane)-platinum(II),
(1,2-diaminocyclohexane)-(isocitrato)platinum(II), (1,2-
diaminocyclohexane)-cis(pyruvato)platinum(II), and (1,2-
diaminocyclohexane)-oxalatoplatinum(II).

Administration of Methionine Protective Agents

15 The methionine protective agents of the present
invention can be administered orally or parenterally, for
example intraperitoneally, by intravenous injection,
intravenous infusion, etc., as described in *Remington's*
Pharmaceutical Sciences, Fifteenth Edition, Mack
20 Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania, 1975. These
protective agents can also be given by local
administration when the platinum-containing
chemotherapeutic agent is administered by local
injection, as noted above. Localized administration of
25 methionine protective agents can be carried out by
topical application employing pharmaceutical formulations
designed for this purpose as is known in the art, local
injection, etc.

Administration of the methionine protective
30 agents of the present invention simultaneously with the
administration of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic
agent can be accomplished in several ways. For example,
each can be formulated individually and administered
separately at the same time via any of the routes
35 described herein. Alternatively, both can be contained

together in a single dosage formulation that can be administered by a single route. As in the case of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, the dose of methionine protective agent can be administered in a single day.

Dosages

The methionine protective agents discussed above can be employed in methods for treating human and animal patients undergoing treatment with anti-cancer effective amounts of platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agents to prevent or reduce ototoxicity, weight loss, gastrointestinal toxicity, neurotoxicity, alopecia, and to prolong survival. These methods comprise administering to the patient an appropriate effective amount of a methionine protective agent prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequent to administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed.

When administered parenterally, the effective amount of methionine protective agent can be in the range of from about 0.1 mg/kg body weight to about 500 mg/kg body weight, more preferably from about 1 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight, even more preferably from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 300 mg/kg body weight, and still more preferably from about 1 mg/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight. A preferred amount is from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 75 mg/kg body weight.

Alternatively, the effective amount of methionine protective agent can be expressed on a mole:mole basis in relation to the anti-cancer effective amount of platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. This effective amount can be in the range of from about 4:1 to about 167:1, more preferably from about 4.25:1 to about 100:1, and most preferably from about 4.68:1 to

about 20:1, methionine protective agent:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, on a molar basis. A dosing ratio of about 18.75:1 on a molar basis is a preferred ratio. If necessary, these ratios can be modified for different platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agents by routine optimization, including monitoring of effectiveness and titration for the desired effect, by the methods described herein.

When administered orally, the methionine protective agent should be given in an amount that will result in a blood serum level equivalent to that achieved by the parenterally administered doses set forth above. Such effective oral doses can easily be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art via conventional *in vitro* or *in vivo* methods such as those described in *Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences*, Fifteenth Edition, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania, 1975.

Treatment Regimen

In the various methods of the present invention, the effective amount of sulfur-containing protective agent can be administered prior to, contemporaneously with, or subsequent to administration of the effective amount of platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Combinations of these time periods can also be employed. Prior administration of the effective amount of the methionine protective agent can be within about 36 hours before administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent; subsequent administration can be within about 36 hours after administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. More preferably, prior administration can be within about 25 hours before, and subsequent administration can be within about 25 hours after, administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. More preferably, prior

administration can be within about 6 hours before, and subsequent administration can be within about 1 hour after, administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Even more preferably, prior
5 administration of the effective amount of methionine protective agent can be within about 1 hour before, and subsequent administration can be within about 1 hour after, administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Still more preferably, prior
10 administration of the effective amount of methionine protective agent can be within about one-half hour before, and subsequent administration can be within about one-half hour after, administration of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

15 The platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent can be administered parenterally, for example by slow intravenous infusion, or by local injection, as discussed above. The methionine protective agent can be administered orally, or parenterally by intravenous
20 injection or slow infusion, or intraperitoneally.

Delayed toxic effects due to platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agents have been observed. The protective effects of the present methionine protective agents can be enhanced by administering them
25 in a supplemental manner during the course of the patient's chemotherapy and/or afterwards as necessary or as desired. Thus, the methods described herein can further comprise daily or weekly parenteral administration of a supplemental amount of methionine
30 protective agent in the range of from about 0.1 mg/kg body weight to about 500 mg/kg body weight, more preferably from about 1 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight, even more preferably from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 300 mg/kg body weight, and
35 still more preferably from about 1 mg/kg body weight to

about 100 mg/kg body weight. A preferred amount is from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 75 mg/kg body weight.

Alternatively, the effective amount of methionine protective agent parenterally administered daily or weekly can be expressed on a mole:mole basis in relation to the anti-cancer effective amount of platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. This effective amount can be in the range of from about 4:1 to about 167:1, more preferably from about 4.25:1 to about 100:1, and most preferably from about 4.68:1 to about 20:1, methionine protective agent:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, on a molar basis. A dosing ratio of about 18.75:1 on a molar basis is preferred.

Oral or parenteral doses administered daily can be within the lower ranges listed above. When administered orally, daily or weekly doses should be designed to achieve serum levels equivalent to those achieved by administration of the various parenteral doses described above.

The supplemental methionine protective agent can be administered parenterally by intravenous injection or slow infusion, or intraperitoneally.

Optimization of Treatment Regimen

In the method of preventing or reducing ototoxicity of the present invention, various parameters associated with the patient's hearing and vestibular systems can be tested by methods well known in the art to establish pretreatment baseline values. After administration of the methionine protective agent, and over the course of chemotherapy and afterwards, ototoxic effects can be monitored by conventional tests, and the results can be compared to those obtained prior to treatment to determine if any change has occurred. If any impairment is observed, the amount and/or time of administration of the protective agent administered in

conjunction with subsequent doses of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent can be adjusted so as to reduce or prevent further ototoxic changes without substantially diminishing the antineoplastic effectiveness of the platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent. Similar modification of treatment parameters in the case of weight loss, gastrointestinal toxicity, neurotoxicity, alopecia, and overall patient condition/survival can be employed to optimize the protective effects of the protective agent with respect thereto. This can be achieved via appropriate testing and comparison of pre- and post-treatment values, e.g., patient weight and patient physical/medical/physiological condition, etc., with protocol adjustments being made as needed.

The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same can be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the present invention, and all such modifications and equivalents as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

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What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for preventing or reducing
ototoxicity in a patient undergoing treatment with an
anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing
chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said
5 patient an anti-ototoxic effective amount of a methionine
protective agent.

2. A method for preventing or reducing weight
loss in a patient undergoing treatment with an anti-
cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing
chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said
5 patient an anti-weight loss effective amount of a
methionine protective agent.

3. A method for preventing or reducing
gastrointestinal toxicity in a patient undergoing
treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a
platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising
5 administering to said patient an anti-gastrointestinal
toxicity effective amount of a methionine protective
agent.

4. A method for preventing or reducing
neurotoxicity in a patient undergoing treatment with an
anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing
chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said
5 patient an anti-neurotoxicity effective amount of a
methionine protective agent.

5. A method for preventing or reducing
alopecia in a patient undergoing treatment with an anti-
cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing
chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said

- 5 patient an anti-alopecia effective amount of a methionine protective agent.

6. A method for prolonging the survival of a patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, comprising administering to said
5 patient a survival-prolonging effective amount of a methionine protective agent.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said methionine protective agent is administered prior to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said methionine protective agent is administered simultaneously with administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

9. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said methionine protective agent is administered subsequently to administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from about 36 hours before administration of
5 said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent to about 36 hours after administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is administered to said patient in a

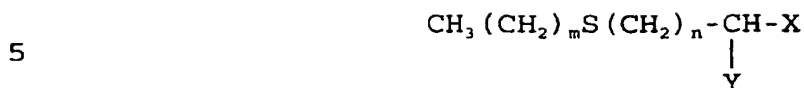
5 time period from about 25 hours before administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent to about 25 hours after administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

12. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from about 6 hours before administration of
5 said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent to about 6 hours after administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

13. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from about 1 hour before administration of
5 said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent to about 1 hour after administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

14. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is administered to said patient in a time period from about one-half hour before
5 administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent to about one-half hour after administration of said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

15. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said methionine protective agent is a compound having the structural formula:



10 wherein m is an integer from 0 to 3; n is an integer from 1 to 3; X = -OR¹, -OCOR¹, -COOR¹, -CHO, -CH(OR¹)₂, or -CH₂OH; Y = -NR²R³ or -OH; R¹ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; R² = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and R³ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; or
15 a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said methionine protective agent is in the D-, L-, or DL-form.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said methionine protective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, a mixture of D-methionine and L-methionine, methioninol, hydroxy
5 methionine, ethionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a combination thereof.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said methionine protective agent is D-methionine.

19. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of *cis*-diamminedichloroplatinum(II), *trans*-diamminedichloroplatinum(II),
5 *cis*-diammine-diaquaplatinum(II)-ion, chloro(diethyl-enetriamine)-platinum(II) chloride, dichloro(ethylene-

diamine)-platinum(II), diammine(1,1-cyclobutanedi-carboxylato)-platinum(II), spiroplatin, dichlorotrans-dihydroxybisisopropolamine platinum IV (iproplatin),
10 diammine(2-ethylmalonato)-platinum(II), ethylenediamine-malonatoplatinum(II), aqua(1,2-diaminocyclohexane)-sulfatoplatinum(II), (1,2-diaminocyclohexane)malonato-platinum(II), (4-carboxy-phthalato)(1,2-diaminocyclohexane)-platinum(II), (1,2-diaminocyclohexane)-
15 (isocitrato)platinum(II), (1,2-diaminocyclohexane)-cis(pyruvato)platinum(II), and (1,2-diaminocyclohexane)-oxalatoplatinum(II).

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent is *cis*-diamminedichloro-platinum(II).

21. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is in the range of from about 0.1 mg/kg body weight to about 500 mg/kg body weight.

22. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is in the range of from about 1 mg/kg body weight to about 400 mg/kg body weight.

23. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is in the range of from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 300 mg/kg body weight.

24. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is in the range of from about 1 mg/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.

25. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent is in the range of from about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 75 mg/kg body weight.

26. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent in relation to said anti-cancer effective amount of said platinum-containing
5 chemotherapeutic agent is in the range of from about 4:1 to about 167:1, methionine protective agent:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, on a molar basis.

27. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent in relation to said anti-cancer effective amount of said platinum-containing
5 chemotherapeutic agent is in the range of from about 4.25:1 to about 100:1, methionine protective agent:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, on a molar basis.

28. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent in relation to said anti-cancer effective amount of said platinum-containing
5 chemotherapeutic agent is in the range of from about 4.68:1 to about 20:1, methionine protective agent:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, on a molar basis.

29. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said effective amount of said methionine protective agent in relation to said anti-cancer effective amount of said platinum-containing
5 chemotherapeutic agent is about 18.75:1, methionine

protective agent:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent, on a molar basis.

30. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein said methionine protective agent is administered orally or parenterally.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent is administered parenterally.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said parenteral administration is by slow intravenous infusion.

33. The method of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising administering to said patient a supplemental amount of said methionine protective agent in the range of from about 0.1 mg/kg body weight to about
5 500 mg/kg body weight per week during and/or after the course of treatment with said platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said supplemental amount of said methionine protective agent is administered orally or parenterally.

35. A method for preventing or reducing ototoxicity in a patient undergoing treatment with an anti-cancer effective amount of a platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent selected from the group consisting
5 of cisplatin, carboplatin, and iproplatin, comprising:
intravenously administering to said patient about 10 mg/kg body weight to about 75 mg/kg body weight of D-methionine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or

- 10 D-methionine or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof in a molar ratio of about 18.75:1,
D-methionine:platinum-containing chemotherapeutic agent,
within about one-half hour before
administration of said platinum-containing
15 chemotherapeutic agent to about one-half hour after
administration of said platinum-containing
chemotherapeutic agent.

FIG.1A

1 / 3

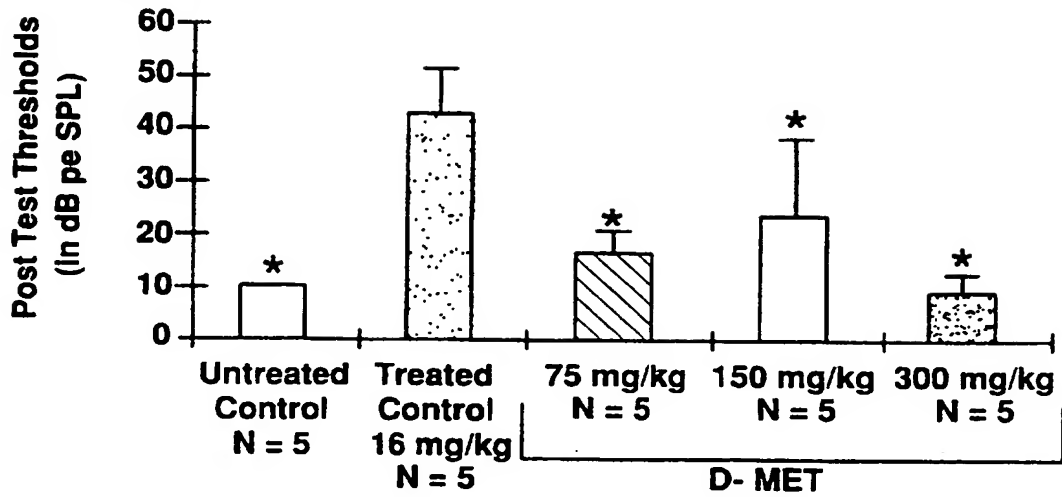


FIG.1B

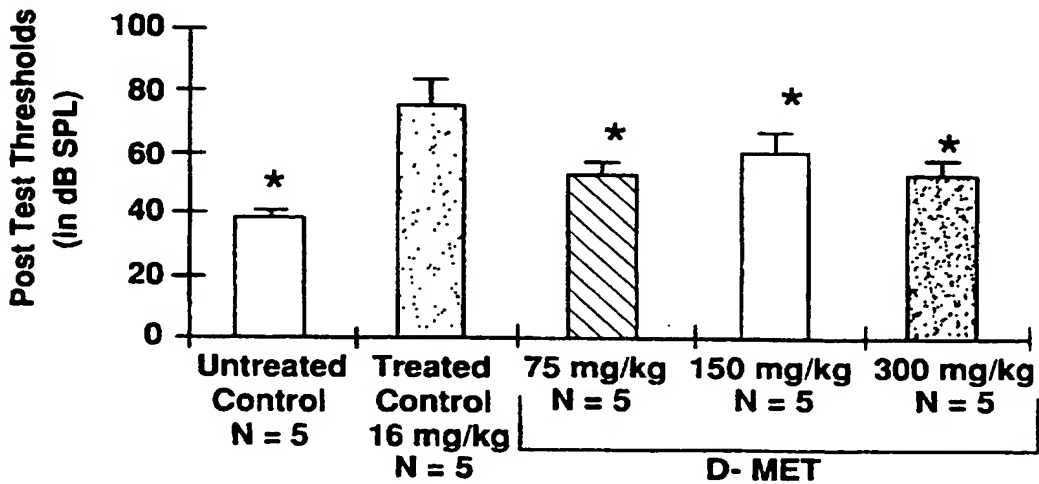
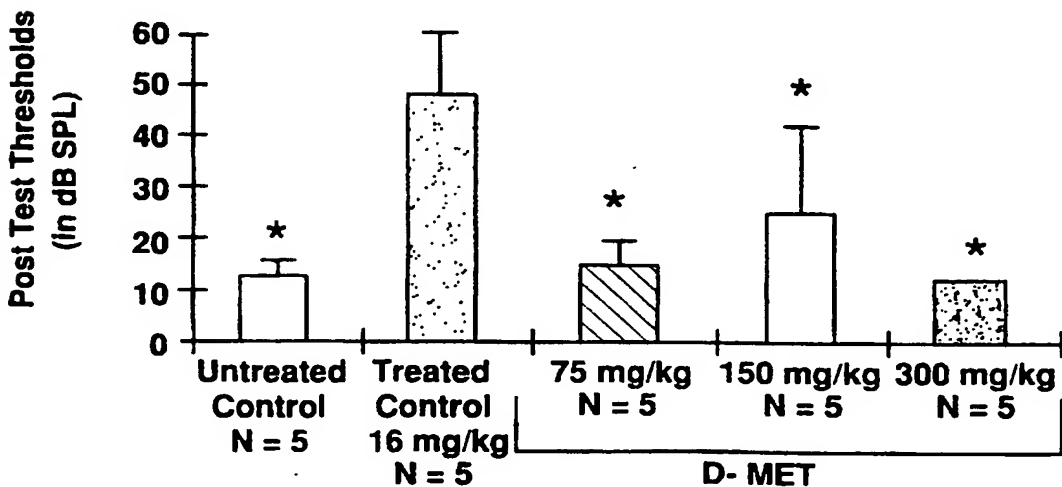


FIG.1C



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

FIG.1D

2 / 3

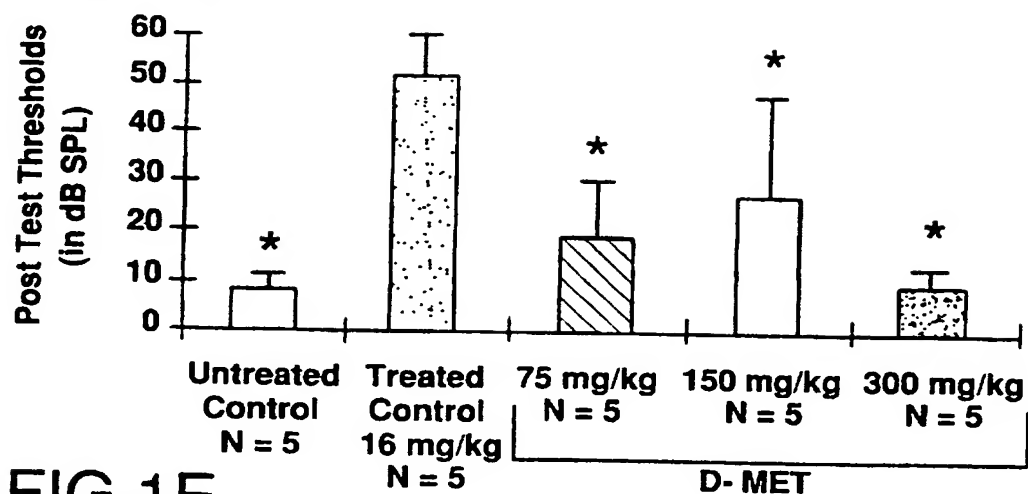


FIG.1E

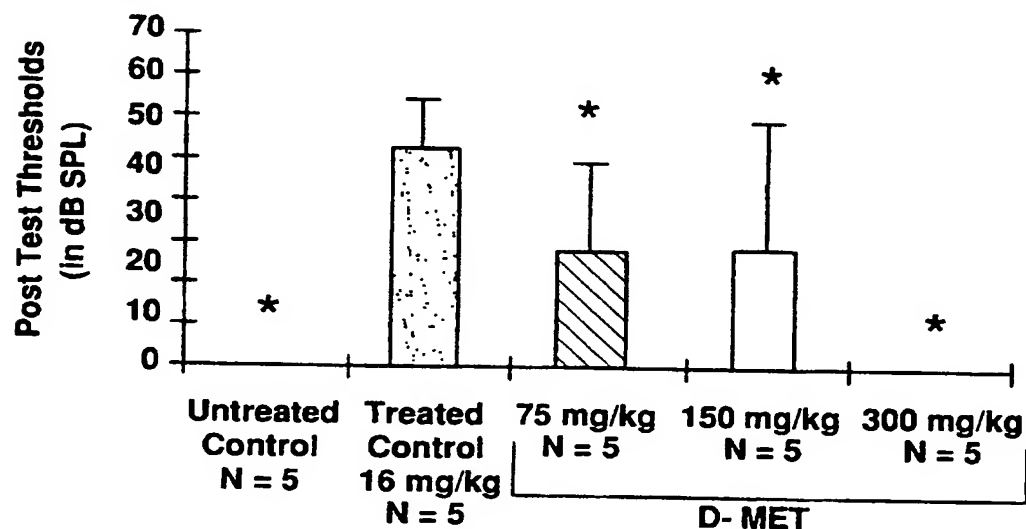
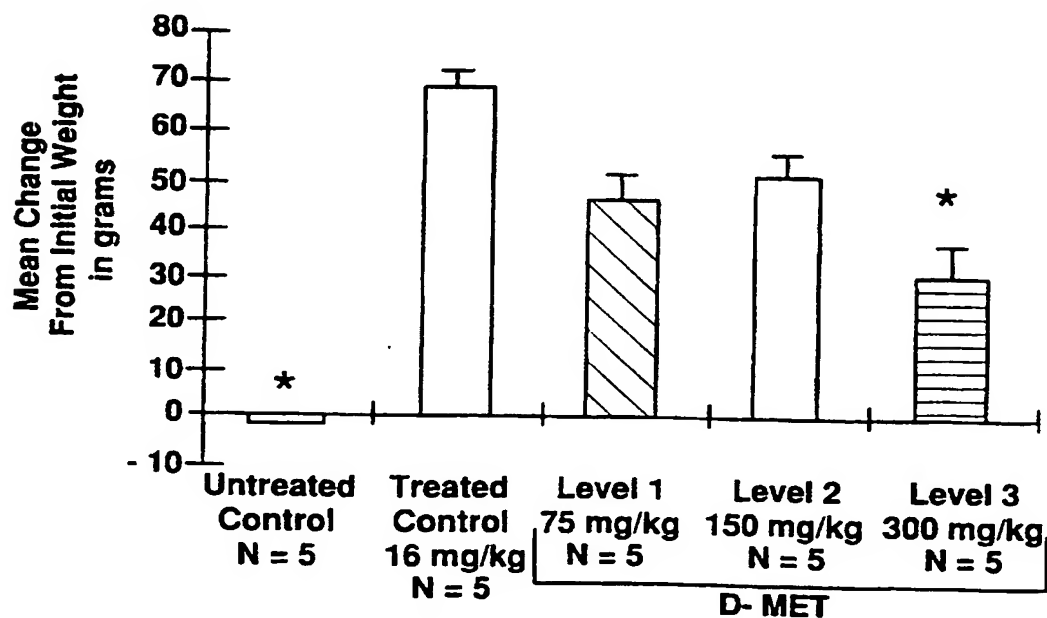


FIG.3



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



FIG. 2A



FIG. 2B



FIG. 2C



FIG. 2D



FIG. 2E



FIG. 2F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 97/18114

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A61K31/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>EP 0 620 004 A (FUJI CHEM IND CO LTD) 19 October 1994</p> <p>see page 3, line 19-23 see page 3, line 41-44 see page 3, line 50-54 see page 7; example 2 see page 10; example 6 ---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	<p>6,8, 19-28, 30-32</p>

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step if the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 January 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

13.02.98

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Patent Application No

PCT/US 97/18114

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	GABAIZADEH ET AL: "protection of both auditory hair cells and auditory neurons from cisplatin induced damage" ACTA OTOLARYNGOL., vol. 117, no. 2, 28 April 1997, pages 232-238, XP002053092 see page 232, left-hand column, paragraph 3 see page 236, right-hand column, paragraph 1 see page 237, left-hand column, paragraph 2	1,4,6, 15-20
X	--- TRESKES ET AL: "wr 2721 as a modulator of cisplatin and carboplatin-induced side effects" CANCER CHEMOTH. AND PHARMACOL., vol. 33, no. 2, 1993, pages 93-106, XP002053093 p.98, modulation of gastro-intestinal toxicity see page 99, right-hand column, paragraph 1 see page 100; figure 4	1,3,4,6, 7,9,14, 19-23
X	--- BASINGER ET AL: "l-methionine antagonism of cis-platinum nephrotoxicity" TOXICOL. APPL. PHARMACOL., vol. 103, no. 1, 1990, pages 1-15, XP002053094 see abstract	6,8, 15-17, 19-28, 30-32
X	--- SCHEIN P.S.: "ethyol wr 2721 a chemoprotectant..." ANTI-CANCER DRUG DES., vol. 6, no. 4, August 1991, pages 382-383, XP002053095 p. 382, l. 6-8, 16, 23, 28,29	4,6,8, 19,20, 26-28, 30-32
X	--- GLOVER ET AL: "clinical trials of wr-2721 and cis-platinum" INT J RADIAT ONCOL BIOL PHYS, vol. 16, 1989, pages 1201-1204, XP002053096 see abstract see page 1201, right-hand column see page 1204, left-hand column -----	4,6,19, 20,30,31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 97/ 18114

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: **Claims 1-35**
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
See FURTHER INFORMATION Sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 97/18114

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0620004 A	19-10-94	US 5466678 A	14-11-95
		CA 2122342 A	17-03-94
		WO 9405299 A	17-03-94
		JP 6192109 A	12-07-94

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